

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

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TRSE-00 OMB-01 /067 W

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R 281300Z APR 78

FM AMCONSUL OPORTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC ROUTINE 1091

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PO

SUBJECT: DAY OF LIBERTY IN NORTHERN PORTUGAL

1. POLITICS OUT OF APRIL 25: APRIL 25 "DAY OF LIBERTY"  
FESTIVITIES WERE SPARSELY ATTENDED AND REFLECTED LITTLE  
PARTISAN POLITICS. THROUGHOUT THE NORTH HEAVY RAINS DAMPENED  
SPIRITS AND LIMITED TURNOUTS AT PARADES, CONCERTS, SPORTING  
EVENTS, ETC. OTHER NORTHERNERS STAYED HOME OUT OF APATHY  
OR DISILLUSIONMENT. A FEW ULTRA-RIGHT ALLEGEDLY HELD PRIVATE  
APRIL 24 PROTEST PARTIES. NO INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED.

2. ULTRA-LEFT ATTACK THE IMF: SOME OPORTO TOWNSPEOPLE  
TURNED OUT ON THE NIGHT OF APRIL 24 WITH OVER 5000 MILLING  
ABOUT IN THE DOWNTOWN SQUARE. PART JOINED A FAR-LEFT UDP  
ORGANIZED MARCH TO FORMER OPORTO PIDE OFFICES AFTER WHICH STUFFED  
FIGURES REPRESENTING FASCISM WERE SYMBOLICALLY BURNED (ALBEIT  
WITH DIFFICULTY) ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS. ONLY AT THIS  
TIME DID POLITICS ENTER THE FESTIVITIES. ULTRA-LEFT SPEAKERS  
EXHORTED THE CROWD TO INTER ALIA DENOUNCE THE IMF. NORTHERN  
BRANCH OF THE PCP REPUDIATED THE MARCH TERMING IT "DIVISIONIST."

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3. DUARTE SILVA ON REVIEW: APRIL 25 MILITARY PARADE IN  
FRONT OF OPORTO NORTHERN REGION MILITARY HEADQUARTERS WAS  
ONE OF THE LARGEST AND MOST IMPRESSIVE IN RECENT YEARS.  
ARMY, AIR FORCE, GNR, CUSTOMS AND POLICE UNITS MADE LENGTHY  
MARCH BEFORE NORTHERN MILITARY BRASS, CITY AUTHORITIES,  
CONSULAR CORPS AND SMALL CROWD. AS ONE LOCAL JOURNALIST  
SAID, "DUARTE SILVA (NORTHERN MILITARY COMMANDER) DID HIMSELF

PROUD."

4. REACTION TO EANES' SPEECH: APRIL 25 ANNIVERSARY MESSAGE OF PRESIDENT EANES WAS WELL RECEIVED IN THE NORTH AND A BOOST TO HIS FLAGGING POPULARITY. LOCAL BUSINESSMEN ENJOYED HEARING HIS WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO PRIVATE INITIATIVE AND CRITICISM OF CERTAIN STATE INTERVENTIONS. CONSERVATIVES WELCOMED HIS DISAPPROVAL OF THE GONCALVES ERA. SOCIAL DEMOCRATS WERE CHEERED BY HIS REFERENCE TO POSSIBLE REVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION AND ATTENTION TO THE WAY THE GOVERNMENT IS RUN RATHER THAN WHO GOVERNS. NORTHERNORS IN GENERAL LIKED HIS MENTION OF THE NECESSITY FOR MERIT AND EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT WHICH READS TO THEM LISBON.

5. COMMENT: NORTHERN PCP WAS IN LOW PROFILE ON THE DAY OF LIBERTY BUT IS EXPECTED TO PULL OUT ALL THE STOPS FOR MAY 1. NORTHERN CONSERVATIVES PLEASED OVER EANES' WORDS ARE STILL SCEPTICAL ABOUT THEM HAVING ANY IMPACT. PENNER

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